

WHO'S WHO AT THE CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joe Murray, Chair

Joe, who became Chair of the Conservation District Board of Supervisors earlier this year, is the manager of the Merrill and Ring Pysht Tree Farm. Joe holds a BA in Business Administration from Notre Dame University and a Forestry degree from Peninsula College. Joe was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1995, and has been reelected twice. He is also on the Board of Trustees for the Western Forestry & Conservation Association.

Nash Huber, Vice-chair

Nash, who was elected Vice-Chair earlier this year, is a vegetable farmer in Dungeness. Nash owns and operates Dungeness Organic Produce. Born and raised on a dairy farm in Illinois, Nash earned a BS degree in chemistry from Eastern Illinois University, then worked in a research lab for a few years before moving to Clallam County in 1968 to rejuvenate his farming career. Nash was appointed to the Conservation District Board in 2001.

Walt Forsberg, Treasurer

Walt is a former dairy farmer who now raises beef cattle and manages timberland on the family homestead in the Dry Creek area west of Port Angeles. Walt holds a BS degree in

Forestry from Washington State College. One of two appointed Supervisors, Walt has been involved with the Conservation District either as a Supervisor or Associate Supervisor since 1977.

Walt's father, Clarence, tied with Sherman Winters in the vote count for the first Board of Supervisors election in 1959 but lost the election on a coin toss.

Matt Heins, Supervisor

Matt was first elected to the Conservation District Board in 1999 and reelected this spring. Matt owns and operates a welding business that specializes in rock-crushing equipment. He also manages Dungeness Farms, a private wildlife reserve at the mouth of the Dungeness River.

Last year Matt received statewide recognition for his work with the Conservation District.

Steve Marble, Supervisor

Steve was first elected to the Conservation District Board in 1997 and reelected in 2000. A real estate agent by profession, Steve has a BS degree in Oceanography from the University of Washington. Prior to settling in the Sequim area, he spent over 15 years on tugboats, fishing boats, and coastal freighters.

Funds Available for Compost Bins

Landowners living in areas draining into the Dungeness Bay can receive 50% cost sharing on compost bins for livestock manure. Conservation District staff will help livestock owners develop a manure management plan that includes composting. Compost bin design depends on the volume of material to be stored, storage time, and site conditions.

Incorporating composting into your manure management plan reduces parasite re-infestations of your livestock, reduces the overall volume of manure and soiled bedding, and stabilizes plant nutrients. Adding compost to pastures, gardens and lawns is an excellent way to promote soil fertility and retain soil moisture.

Contact the District for more information at (360) 452-1912.

Visit Our New Website!
<http://clallam.scc.wa.gov/>

PLANT SALE

Each year the Clallam Conservation District holds a native plant sale, selling bare-root seedling trees and shrubs in bundles of 10. Preorders for plants are accepted starting in January and plant pick-up day is held in early March.

Watch for the 2003 Plant Sale order form in our winter 2002 issue of Conservation *Sorry, no early orders will be accepted!*

WHO'S WHO AT THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (Cont)

STAFF

Laura Hall **Financial Manager**

Laura became the Financial Manager for the District in May of this year. She has a BA degree in Environmental Studies with a minor in Urban Politics and International Relations from California State University, Sacramento and over 15 years of financial and administrative experience with the State of California. Laura lives in the Sequim area with her husband Ken and their teenage son, Cory.

Laura is responsible for grant vouchering, payroll, financial reporting, and various other administrative duties. She also coordinates the preparation of our quarterly newsletter.

Jennifer Coyle **Conservation Planner**

Jennifer joined the District as a Conservation Planner in February 2001. Jennifer grew up in Port Angeles and graduated from Port Angeles High School and Peninsula College before going on to Gonzaga University to obtain a degree in Biology. Jennifer and her husband, Wes, live in Port Angeles.

Jennifer assists landowners in developing and implementing conservation plans that protect water quality and other natural resources. She works primarily with small-scale farms, like horse, cattle, sheep and, other livestock-keeping operations. Jennifer also organizes workshops to educate landowners about managing their farms in an environmentally

friendly way.

Joe Holtrop **District Manager**

Joe was the District's first employee back in 1989. He left the District in 1993 to volunteer for the Peace Corps in Argentina and Guatemala. After earning a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Michigan in 1999, he returned to the Olympic Peninsula and the Conservation District. Joe and his wife, Karen, also served in the Peace Corps in Nepal in the 1980s. In



Staff Left to Right: Laura Hall, Jennifer Coyle, Joe Holtrop, Ali Tabaei, Rick Hollatz

addition to a MLA, he holds a BS in Landscape Architecture and a Master of Adult and Continuing Education from Washington State University. Joe grew up on a dairy farm in Whatcom County. He and Karen live in the Sequim area with their two daughters.

Joe is responsible for coordinating all Conservation District programs, including assuring that adequate funding exists to carry out programs, managing many of the grants, interagency coordination, staff coordination, and policy development and compliance. About half of his time is devoted to technical assistance to landowners, and education and outreach activities.

Ali Tabaei **Water Resources Specialist**

A Hydrogeologist by training, Ali was hired in August of this year to fill an irrigation specialist vacancy. He holds a BS degree in Agriculture from Southwest Texas State University and a Master of Hydrology/Hydrogeology from the University of Nevada, Reno, and has over eight years of experience in groundwater and surface water monitoring. He moved to Washington 12 years ago,

Ali is responsible for the District's various water management programs. His specific duties include irrigation system assessments and the design of irrigation water conservation and water quality improvement practices, and stormwater management planning.

Rick Hollatz **Conservation** **Technician**

Rick Hollatz was hired in August of this year to fill a vacant conservation technician position. Rick grew up in the Port Angeles area and graduated from Port Angeles High School and Peninsula College. He holds a BS degree in Forestry with a minor in Conservation of Wildland Resources from the University of Washington. Rick lives in the Port Angeles area.

Rick's assignment is construction inspector on the Jimmycomelately Creek Channel Realignment Project, performing a Siebert Creek riparian habitat assessment, preparing road maintenance and abandonment plans, assisting landowners with implementation of riparian restoration projects, and developing a monitoring program for restoration projects.

LONG-RANGE PLAN UPDATE A TOP PRIORITY FOR 2002-03

The Clallam Conservation District Board of Supervisors has made updating the Long-Range Plan a top priority for the coming months. Preparing and keeping current a comprehensive long-range program for the conservation of renewable natural resources is mandated by the Conservation Districts Law, RCW 89.08.220.

That law states that "such programs shall be directed toward the best use of renewable natural resources..." The program is to "...include an inventory of all renewable natural resources in the district, a compilation of current resources needs, projections for future resource requirements, priorities for various resource activities, projected timetables, descriptions of available alternatives, and provisions for coordination with other resource programs." Among the issues recommended for consideration are:

- ⇒ farming
- ⇒ grazing
- ⇒ timber supply
- ⇒ forests
- ⇒ parks and outdoor recreation
- ⇒ potable water supplies
- ⇒ water for agriculture
- ⇒ minimal flow
- ⇒ control of soil erosion
- ⇒ flood prevention and control
- ⇒ restriction of developments of flood plains
- ⇒ protection of open space and scenery
- ⇒ preservation of natural beauty
- ⇒ protection of fish and wildlife,
- ⇒ preservation of wilderness areas and wild rivers
- ⇒ the prevention or reduction of water pollution

During the coming months, the Conservation District will be seeking public input in the formulation of priorities and development of the Long-Range Plan.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS WORKSHOPS

OCTOBER 3, 2002, 2:00-4:00PM
DUNGENESS RECREATION AREA

This field workshop will introduce you to native woody plants of the Dungeness Valley. Plant identification, habitat values, and natural landscaping will be covered. The workshop is free, but pre-registration is required.

Call Conservation District to reserve a space at (360) 452-1912.

LAND USE DECISIONS Exploring The Watershed Series

OCTOBER 18, 2002, 6:30 - 9 PM
PORT ANGELES CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS

A panel presentation about how local organizations or agencies make decisions about land use on the North Olympic Peninsula. Organizations and agencies represented are Department of Natural Resources; Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe; Pacific Forest Trust; North Olympic Land Trust; and Green Crow Timber Company.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, a field trip to Siebert Creek with panel members provides an opportunity to visit land where each of the above groups has initiated the policies they describe in the Friday evening panel.

Both events are free and the public is welcome. Space for the field trip is limited. To register, call to (360) 417-0980.

The *Exploring The Watershed* programs are sponsored by Pacific Woodrush and funded with a PIE grant from the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team.

HORSES FOR CLEAN WATER WORKSHOPS

Clallam Conservation District and Jefferson County Conservation District are proud to offer the popular *Horses for Clean Water (HCW)* workshops this November and December. Each workshop will consist of two all-day Saturday sessions. The first workshop will be held at the Chimacum Grange in Jefferson County on **November 16 and 23**. The second workshop will be held at the Dungeness River Audubon Center in Sequim on **December 7 & 14**.

Attendees will hear Alayne Blickle, director of the HCW program and fellow horse owner, talk on a variety of horse management subjects such as manure management, composting horse manure, reducing mud in paddocks and around barns, and managing streams and wetlands on horse farms.



A variety of equine professionals will also talk on subjects such as equine dentistry, horse trailer safety, equine massage, and identifying poisonous weeds in horse pastures. Funding for these workshops is provided by the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team's Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Fund and the Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water Fund.

For more information or to register please contact Jennifer Coyle at (360) 452-1912 ext. 110.

FEDERAL COST-SHARE FUNDS FOR CONSERVATION

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking input on priorities for distribution of cost-share funds through their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). For the Olympic Peninsula region, the NRCS has asked the five conservation districts that make up the area to facilitate a priority-setting and application-ranking process.

EQIP provides cost sharing to address resource concerns on private property. In the past, EQIP has paid for up to 75% of the cost of such conservation practices as animal waste management, irrigation water conservation, wildlife habitat improvement, and erosion control. Beginning this year, forest Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan implementation is also eligible. Contact the Conservation District for more information or to provide input on this program.

For this coming federal fiscal year there is \$580,000 available for our five-county region. It is anticipated that funding for this program will increase in coming years.

CONSERVATION NEWS is published quarterly by Clallam Conservation District with partial funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission.

To become a sponsor, to submit calendar items, to be added to or deleted from the mailing list, contact Laura Hall at 452-1912, ext. 109 or laura-hall@wa.nacdn.net

Clallam Conservation District is a subdivision of state government created to promote the stewardship and conservation of natural resources in Clallam County. Public meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Clallam County Courthouse.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Joe Murray, Chair
- Nash Huber, Vice-Chair
- Walt Forsberg, Treasurer
- Matt Heins, member
- Steve Marble, Member

DISTRICT STAFF

(360) 452-1912 x 5

- District Manager: Joe Holtrop
- Conservation Planner: Jennifer Coyle
- Conservation Technicians:
Ali Tabaei, Rick Hollatz
- Financial Manager: Laura Hall

**NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE**

- Ken Drecksels,
District Conservationist
(360) 457-5019 x3

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

Clallam Conservation District is an obscure government agency. Few people have heard of us and many of those who have don't quite understand what we are and what we do. Many, however have heard of the Soil Conservation Service (now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service). The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is our federal partner in resource conservation.

Conservation districts are governmental subdivisions of the state. Conservation districts are NOT the NRCS. However, the history of conservation districts is so inextricably entwined with that of the NRCS that one cannot describe one without the other. The NRCS is part of the US Department of Agriculture. In Clallam County, the NRCS (as the Soil Conservation Service) provided the sole technical assistance to landowners for the first 30 years of the District's existence. And, they continue to provide office space for Clallam Conservation District staff.

There are 48 conservation districts in Washington and nearly 3,000 throughout the country. Conservation districts were conceived during the Dust Bowl. Their original mission was to work with farmers to control soil erosion, but that mission has evolved to encompass all land users and all renewable natural resource conservation issues.

Conservation districts are non-regulatory agencies, although they were originally envisioned as land-use regulators. Conservation districts direct land users to sources of information, technical and financial assistance to manage the land in a sustainable manner.

The following are the major milestones in the history of Clallam Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

1933 – Soil Erosion Service (SES) created

Leap back in time to the Great Depression. The American heartland is experiencing another severe drought. Farmers are cultivating more land than ever before in order to make up for losses in previous years and keep from losing their farms. Yet, again the rains do not come. The barren soil is whipped up into huge clouds of dust that blow across the plains all the way to the Eastern seaboard. This is the Dust Bowl.

This disaster becomes so severe and widespread the federal government must take emergency action. The Soil Erosion Service (SES), a temporary agency is created within the US Department of the Interior. A major function of the SES is to put unemployed men to work constructing soil conservation demonstration projects. A main characteristic of demonstration projects is the terracing of farmland.

1935 – SES renamed Soil Conservation Service (SCS)

Work continues on the farmland within demonstration project watersheds; however, outside demonstration projects few farmers have necessary resources or incentives to transform their farms. The SES is moved from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture and renamed the Soil Conservation Service.

1937 – Standard State Soil Conservation District Law drafted

Many farmers are skeptical of the engineered – and largely unaffordable – solutions handed down to them by bureaucrats from Washington, DC. In need of a better way to involve local landowners in land management decisions, and searching for a mechanism to take responsibility for rural land use planning and regulation for the nation, a network of local government agencies is conjure up. President Roosevelt distributes to each of the nation's governors a model law for the creation of soil conservation districts.

1939 – Washington State legislature passes Conservation Districts Law (RCW 89.08)

State Soil Conservation Committee (now known as State Conservation Commission) created. Included in law

HISTORY OF CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(CONTINUED)

is authority for conservation districts to impose land-use regulations; however, no authority is given to districts to raise revenue by taxation or assessment. No districts exercise land-use regulatory authority, and in 1955 the law is amended, removing such authority.

1959 – Olympic Soil Conservation District created

Landowners in Clallam County vote to create district that includes all of Clallam County except incorporated cities and towns. The SCS establishes an office in Port Angeles. Art Munson, Ferd Schnuriger and Sherman Winters are elected and William McCrorie and Howard Cameron are appointed to first Board of Supervisors. Only Whidbey Island Soil and Water Conservation District, created in 1967 is established after 1959.

1961 – Conservation Districts Law amended

Soil conservation districts become soil and water conservation districts.

1969 – Olympic Soil and Water Conservation District name changed to Clallam Soil and Water Conservation District

1973 – Major amendments made to Conservation Districts Law

Soil and water conservation districts are changed to conservation districts, reflecting broader purpose. Requirement to prepare comprehensive long-range programs for the conservation of ALL renewable natural resources is added to law.

1979 – Soil Conservation Service closes Port Townsend field office

Soil Conservation Service technical assistance to both Clallam and Jefferson conservation districts provided through Port Angeles office.

1985 – Soil Conservation Service publishes *Soil Survey of Clallam County Area, Washington*

1988 – Clallam Conservation District (CCD) receives state grant to conduct water quality sampling

CCD hires temporary employee to collect water samples in streams and irrigation ditches from Lyre River to Sequim Bay.

1989 – Conservation Districts Law amended to authorize special assessments for conservation districts

1989 – CCD and Jefferson County Conservation District receive a Conservation Commission grant

One-year grant enables conservation districts to hire a technician to work in both districts.

1990 – CCD enters into agreement with Clallam County to employ full-time technician

CCD hires first full-time employee.

1994 – Soil Conservation Service changes name to Natural Resources Conservation Service

1998 – Cities of Forks and Port Angeles annexed into District

1999 – City of Sequim annexed into District

2001 – Clallam County increases funding to District from \$2,400 to \$50,000 annually

Clallam Conservation District currently has a staff of five. The Natural Resources Conservation Service Port Angeles field office is vacant at the present time; however, plans are in place to staff the office with two people.